CERTIFIED ESCORT DRIVER MANUAL FOR OVERSIZE/OVERWEIGHT LOADS

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I. Purpose of Escort Driver Certification

When properly conducted, escort services provide benefits to the public and to the manufactured housing, boating, construction and other industries that transport oversize / overweight loads. This manual provides escort vehicle drivers information on their duties and responsibilities in order to promote a clear understanding of proper escort operations. Specific objectives of this certification manual are:

- Enhance the safety of the traveling public;
- Enhance the safety of the people involved in the movement of oversize and overweight loads;
- Prevent damage to the highway system;
- Prevent damage to the load being transported;
- Reduce undue delay to the normal flow of traffic;
- Prevent increases in insurance costs;
- Provide security from costly damage suits;

- Encourage uniform escort operations

II. General Requirements for Certification

Applicability

Certification as an escort driver is required for all drivers escorting oversize / overweight loads on Canadian highways. Th include loads which have a width in excess of 3.65 metres (12 feet) and/or a length in excess of 27.5 metres (90 feet) or a ar overhang of the load/vehicle which exceeds the main body of the vehicle by greater than 3.05 metres (10 feet). Certified escorts are also required when speed restrictions are in effect because of the total gross weight of the vehicle, or other concerns.

Requirements for Providing Escort Driver Services

In order to qualify as a certified escort driver you must:

- Be 18-years old;
- Have a valid drivers license;
- Comply with all terms, conditions, requirements and/or regulations of the province or territory in which you will be traveling
- Pass the Escort Driver's Certification Test and be in possession of a valid escort drivers certificate,

Failure to comply with these requirements may lead to the cancellation of your Escort Driver Certificate.

III. Certification Program

To be certified as an Escort Driver, you must take the Escort Driver Certification course and pass the certification exercise. Bring your valid drivers license and drivers abstract. This certification is valid for five years.

Certificate Revocation and Suspension

Your escort driver's certificate is not valid if your driver's license or privilege to drive is revoked or suspended in the issuing jurisdiction.

Your certification may be canceled if:

- You are convicted of violating traffic laws and safe escort procedures; or
- You become physically or mentally unfit to hold a drivers license; or
- You are found to have given false or fraudulent information on the application for certification as an escort driver.

IV. Safe Driving Practices

Everyone with a valid driver's license should be familiar with the general rules of the road and should know how to drive defensively; however, many of the hazards observed with escort operations were created when escort drivers violated traffic laws, safe driving practices and did not know how to control traffic. The certified escort driver course includes defensive driving, highway signaling as well as escort procedures.

General Rules of the Road

1. Traffic Control Signals and Highway Signs

   The traffic signals and signs, for all drivers must also be obeyed during escort operations. For example, escort drivers are required to stop for red lights and school buses and to drive strictly in accordance with all regulatory signing.

2. Road Markings

   Road markings enhance highway safety by providing important traffic control information to motorists. Escort operators should carefully observe all road markings and never drive to the left of a solid double yellow centerline.

3. Drivers Signals

   Escort drivers should give proper signals in advance of turning at intersections or when changing lanes.

4. Safe Driving: Maintain a Safe Following Distance

   In general, on dry road conditions, during daylight hours with low traffic volumes, the two-second rule should be used to ensure that a correct following distance is being maintained. To determine if the following distance is proper, the driver should note when the vehicle ahead passes a definite point on the road (such as a telephone pole). Then the driver should count "one thousand and one, one thousand and two". If the driver reaches the mark before completing the count, the following distance is too close and a greater interval is needed. The two second rule is applicable regardless of vehicle speed. Escort drivers who follow the oversize and/or overweight load or other traffic should maintain a distance of 800 to 1,000 feet to allow enough time and distance to respond to emergency situations.

5. Stopping Under Special Conditions

   When the driver of the oversize /overweight load or the escort operator is forced to stop (except momentarily) on any portion of the road, the drivers should immediately set out three warning flares, torches, or reflectorized triangular warning signals to warn approaching traffic of the hazard. Every precaution should be taken to remove the load and escort vehicles from the roadway

6. Safe Driving: Right-of-way Rules

   Escort drivers are required to obey all right-of-way rules, especially at intersections in urban areas and when entering or leaving a controlled access highway. **The size of the load is not justification for assuming that other drivers must yield to the load or the escort vehicles.**

Defensive Driving

A defensive driver is a person who is always alert, and takes every reasonable precaution to prevent traffic mishaps, over and above what is required by law. The escort driver must develop a positive attitude toward accident prevention because the movement of every oversize / overweight load affects the normal flow of traffic on the highway. A defensive driver must anticipate possible accident problems by evaluating constantly changing situations and planning preventive measures. Escort drivers should adopt the accident prevention formula given below.

Accident Prevention Formula

a) See the hazard

Think about what is going to happen as far ahead of encountering the situation as possible. Never assume everything will be "all right"

b) Understand the Defense

There are specific ways of handling different situations. Learn these ways and be prepared to apply them when

the need arises

c) Act in Time

Once you have perceived the hazard and determined the defense, act immediately. Never take a "wait and see" attitude

V. Special Permit Regulations Governing the Movement of Oversize / Overweight Loads

General

- The reason for issuing oversize / overweight permits is that industries, on occasion, need to move INDIVISIBLE loads with weight or dimensions in excess of those stipulated under provincial regulations. A special permit may be issued by a province to allow such operation and is only issued to the vehicle transporting the oversize/overweight load. **Permits are only issued for loads which cannot readily be broken down for separate cartage**. The permit may prescribe conditions of operation to ensure against undue damage to the infrastructure and may require extra safety features.
- Every such permit shall be carried in the vehicle or combination of vehicles to which it refers while the vehicle is in operating in a Canadian province or territory. Failure of a vehicle to be identified as herein required shall render the permit void. Upon request, the permit shall be open to inspection by any peace officer or authorized agent of any authority granting such a permit.
- The provincial, territorial or local highway authorities are authorized to issue or withhold such permit at their discretion;

Days and Times of Travel

- General: A special permit allows travel between the hours of one-half hour after sunrise to one-half hour before sunset as per sunrise/sunset tables available from the Transportation Policy Branch. Special permits do not allow movements on Sundays or on public holidays unless specifically authorized on the permit.
- Loads/Vehicles exceeding: 3.65m (12 feet) in width, or 27.5m (90 feet) in length shall not be conveyed after 3 p.m. on Friday and shall not be conveyed on Saturdays.
- Before loads exceeding: 4.88m (16 feet) in width or 30m (98 feet) in length are conveyed, the permit holder must provide the nearest detachment of the R.C.M.P. with notice thereof and abide by police requirements. When police involvement is a requirement of the permit, the applicant must make arrangements with the R.C.M.P. at least one week in advance of the move.

Exceptions - Days and Times of Travel

Under exceptional and / or extreme circumstances, upon written application showing good cause, the District Engineer or the Department of Transportation may authorize a load move at any time of the day or week.

Load Overhang

The maximum legal front overhang cannot exceed 90 cm (3 feet) beyond the foremost part of the vehicle and rear overhang cannot exceed 180 cm (6 feet) beyond the rear of the bed or body of the vehicle.

Speed Limit

Maximum speed limits must be respected.

Holidays

Special permits are not valid for Sundays or Public Holidays. Loads exceeding 3.65 feet (12 feet) in width or 27.5 meters (90 feet) in length shall not be conveyed after 3 p.m. on Fridays and shall not be conveyed on Saturdays.

Flags

Required warning flags shall be in evidence during daylight hours for all oversize / overweight loads. Bright fluorescent red or orange warning flags 40 cm X 40 cm (16 X 16 inches) mounted on a staff fastened by two consecutive corners must be at the extremities of all overwidth and overlength loads.

Flag Person

When necessary to post a flag person(s) in order to warn and direct approaching traffic, each flag person must be wearing a fluorescent orange vest and be equipped with a paddle reading "STOP" "ARRET" in white letters with red background and on the reverse side "SLOW" "LENTEMENT" in black letters with a yellow background.

Lights

All headlights and other steady burning exterior lights of the vehicle hauling the oversize load and of the escort vehicles shall be turned on when operating under the authority of a permit.

Warning Lights for Permitted Loads

General

Whenever the rear running lights, stop lights, turn signals, or hazard warning lights are obstructed by the load on a vehicle, lighting equipment shall be displayed on the rear of the load equivalent to the obstructed lights or signals.

Oversize / Overweight

Flashing amber warning lights with a 10 cm (4") diameter and fluorescent red or orange flags must be on all extremities of loads exceeding 3.65 meters (12 feet) in width, 27.5 metres (90 feet) in length and on front overhangs exceeding 90 cm (3 feet). Amber lights must be visible from a minimum distance of 150 meters (500 feet) from front rear and sides of the vehicle.

Warning Lights for Escort Vehicles

Warning lights for escort vehicles shall be located on the roof of the vehicle perpendicular to the length of the escort vehicle. Lighting shall consist of one rectangular amber bar light 40 cm (15 inches) in length with two internal rotators or one 360 degree amber warning light with a lens size of at least 13 cm (12 inches) in diameter at the height of 13 cm (5 inches) above the base. Flashing lights must be two sided with a flashing rate of 60 to 90 flashes per minute.

All lights shall be visible on a 360 degree basis from the vehicle for a distance of 150 meters (500 feet).

Warning Signs

General

Warning signs shall be made of rigid material or reflective sheet on rigid material. The sign shall be in evidence during all oversize movements but removed or not visible when not in use. **Warning signs shall not obstruct lights and other safety devices and must be legible at a minimum distance of 25 meters (85 feet).**

Color

The "D PANEL SIGN" consists of stop sign red (# 712 3M or equivalent) vertical strips on a white level II reflectance background having a white letter "D" in the center of the sign.

Size

1. 'D' SIGNS ON THE PERMITTED LOAD

Warning signs shall be at least 2.45 meters (8 feet) long and 30 centimeters (12 inches) high. Letters shall be at least 20 centimeters (8 inches) high using a series E letter D.

2. ESCORT VEHICLE

Warning signs shall be at least 180 centimeters (6 feet) long and 30 centimeters (12 inches) high. Letters shall be at least 20 centimeters (8 inches) in height.

Legend

The legend of the sign shall read: "D" .

Location

1) PERMITTED LOAD

Warning signs shall be at least 60 centimeters (two feet) but no more than 150 centimeters (five feet) from the top of the roadway surface to the bottom of the sign or affixed to the front bumper in such a manner so as not to obstruct lighting.

Vehicles and loads exceeding legal width shall display two signs. One sign shall be on the front of the vehicle. The other shall be on the rear of the load.

2) ESCORT VEHICLE

The sign shall be mounted on the front and rear of the escort vehicle and shall not obstruct warning lights and other safety devices.

360 º Amber Warning Light - Oversize / Overweight Vehicles and Loads

One (1) amber revolving light shall be located on top of the vehicle transporting the oversize / overweight load. The revolving warning lamp shall be at least 12 centimeters (five inches) in diameter at a height of 10 cm above the base. The lamp shall consist of a lamp with an amber lens and not an uncolored lens with an amber bulb. The mounting height from the highway shall be a minimum of 1.5 meters. The warning light shall provide a visible signal, under normal conditions, from a point at least 150 metres (500 feet) distance and will have a flashing rate of 60 to 90 flashes per minute.

Escort Vehicle Regulations

- No escort vehicles are required for oversized loads of 3.65 metres (12 feet) or less wide, 27.5 metres (90 feet) or less long or with a rear overhang of 3.05 metres (10 feet) or less. However if the vehicle is a slow moving vehicle, or if bridge speed restrictions are required or where the overhang is greater than 3.05 metres (10 feet) then escorts will be required.
- A front escort vehicle is required for vehicles / loads exceeding 3.65 metres (12 feet) in width. A front and rear escort vehicle is required for vehicles / loads exceeding 4.88 meters (16 feet) in width. For overheight vehicles, the front escort must be equipped with a height pole which is 1.5 inches higher than the overall height of the permitted vehicle/load.
- A rear escort vehicle is required when vehicles / loads exceed 27.5 meters (90 feet) in length, or if the vehicle is a slow moving vehicle, or bridge speed restrictions are required, or where the overhang is greater than 3.05 meters (10 feet).
- When one escort vehicle is required for travel, the escort is to move to the rear on four lane highways.
- Notification of the police is required for travel whenever the vehicle/load is over 4.88 meters (16 feet) wide or 30 meters (98 feet) in length.
- Escorts(s) may be required if the roadway geometry or other circumstances indicate a need.
- Each oversize/overweight vehicle/load requires its own permit and its own escort vehicle(s) when escort is required. Escort vehicles(s) must maintain adequate distance in front or behind the unit (approximately 300 metres (1,000 feet)) to warn motorists of the oversize load. For escort vehicles that are required to have a height pole, the distance in front of

the permitted load shall be 900 metres (3,000 feet) to allow for adequate stopping distance.

- All escort vehicle drivers and the oversize load driver must be in constant communication at all times.
- When an oversize / overweight movement is routed upon any highway which is too narrow for two-way travel at all points, the lead escort vehicle shall advance to a point where two-way traffic can be maintained, stopping oncoming traffic at that location. When the load reaches the location where traffic is stopped, the oversize / overweight unit shall halt and allow traffic to clear from both directions, assistance being given by the escort driver. The lead escort vehicle shall then advance to the next point for stopping traffic.
- Traffic shall not be detained for more than ten minutes.

Escort Driver Certification Required

Certification as an escort driver is mandatory for all drivers, regardless of their residency, who escort oversize / overweight loads with a width greater than 3.65 metres (12 feet), and/or length greater than 27.5 meters (90 feet), whenever a vehicle cannot maintain highway speeds, there is an overhang over 3.05 metres (10 feet) or where there is a bridge speed restriction.

Every person who wishes to escort oversize / overweight vehicle/load must:

- Have a valid driver's license;
- Comply with the permit policy and regulations and all provincial traffic laws;
- Have passed the Escort Driver Certification Test;
- Be 18 years of age

Operational Provisions

- No travel shall be allowed upon any roadway having physical or geometrical restrictions that prohibit movement as determined by the highway authorities in each province or territory.
- No travel is allowed upon any public highway which exceeds the limits of the Motor Vehicle Act and Regulations thereunder without a permit from the appropriate authority.
- No permit vehicle shall travel upon any highway when the visibility is limited by atmospheric or other conditions so as to make travel hazardous for any vehicle. No travel is allowed when any person, vehicle or highway is not clearly discernible at a distance of 300 metres (1,000 feet). No travel is allowed when the surface of the highway is made hazardous by rain, sleet, snow or ice. No travel is allowed when movement is made hazardous by fog, flood or wind. Law enforcement officer determination will prevail without exception.
- Permit vehicles operating on four-lane or divided highways shall be driven in right-most lane for traffic, except when the right lane must exit. Vehicles on two-lane highways shall pull off of the pavement whenever possible to allow traffic from both directions to pass. Permit vehicles shall be driven as nearly as practicable entirely within a single lane and shall not be moved from such lane until the driver has first ascertained that such movement can be made safely.
- Traffic shall not be detained for more than ten minutes in the event of a traffic stoppage by a certified escort driver.
- No vehicle operating under a permit may travel on a road or cross a bridge if the gross vehicle weight exceeds the posted limit.
- Overhead wires, cables, signal or traffic lights, limbs of trees or overhead structures shall not be disturbed without first obtaining permission from the owners thereof and movements shall not be commenced until after such consents are obtained.
- Permit vehicles will not be allowed to travel less than 600 metres (2,000 feet) apart unless specified on the permit.
- Loads must be adequately secured to the vehicle as prescribed by the Motor Vehicle Act and Regulations.
- The driver of the towing vehicle will be responsible for the least possible inconvenience to other traffic by using every opportunity to allow following traffic to pass. If traffic buildup behind the unit becomes heavy (considered to be six or more vehicles), the entire combination unit shall be removed from the traveled way to allow traffic to pass.
- All necessary safety precautions shall be employed. Extreme caution is to be exercised under conditions of crossing narrow structures, overtaking vehicles, or encountering pedestrians or vehicles along the roadway's edge. Special safety precautions shall be utilized during vehicle breakdown and the unit shall be immediately removed from the traveled portion of the roadway. The disabled unit shall be removed from the highway system at the earliest possible time after breakdown.
- The driver of an oversize /overweight load is required to report to the R.C.M.P. or local authority police any reportable accident under Section 130 of the Motor Vehicle Act.

- The driver of a permitted load is required to stop at inspection stations and present the special permit.
- The driver of the load is responsible for all horizontal and vertical clearances along each proposed route of travel to ensure that proper clearances exist. Travel shall not commence without proper clearances along all proposed routes of travel.
- Under no circumstances are bridge railings to be removed or adjusted, nor are any roadway structures, signs or temporary barriers to be modified or changed to allow passage without prior written approval from the appropriate highway authorities.
- Routes of travel as shown on the permit are to be used with NO EXCEPTIONS. Should the driver be on an unauthorized route, the driver must immediately remove the unit from the traveled roadway at a suitable location and contact the permit issuing agency. Appropriate routing shall then be arranged so the unit may continue travel as soon as possible.
- Items shall not be loaded side-by-side to create an overwidth condition; end-to-end to create an overlength condition; or stacked to create an overheight condition. When hauling more than one item at a time, gross weight and axle weights must remain legal.

Police Notification

Police notification is required before loads exceeding 4.88 metres (16 feet) in width or 30 metres (98 feet) in length are conveyed. The permit holder must provide notice to the appropriate police authorities one week in advance of the movement and abide by police requirements.

VI. Duties and Responsibilities of Escort Drivers

General Duties

The purpose of an escort vehicle is to alert the traveling public to the presence or approach of an oversize / overweight load. Escort drivers are also responsible for assisting the driver of the load. Specific duties of the front and rear escort drivers are given below.

Front Escorts

Responsibilities of the front escort operator include, but are not limited to the following: Warn oncoming traffic of the presence of the oversize / overweight load.

- Assist the driver of the oversize / overweight load by using the two-way radio to provide notification of hazards, obstructions, low structures or overhead obstructions, pedestrians, and other potential problems that would affect the safe movement of the load and the traveling public.
- Assure the oversize / overweight load driver that the route prescribed on the permit is being followed.
- Locate safe places to allow the oversize / overweight load and the escort vehicles to clear the roadway so traffic following the load can safely pass.
- Warn motorists to stop at the end of narrow structures to permit safe passage of the load through the obstruction.
- Control traffic in advance of the permitted load at intersections, when necessary, to allow for necessary encroachment on opposing traffic lanes to allow for turning movements.
- Inform permitted load driver and rear escort that they are approaching a structure which will require a speed reduction as required by permit.

Rear Escort

Responsibilities of the rear escort operator include, but are not limited to the following:

- Warn traffic approaching from the rear of the presence of an oversize / overweight load ahead.
- Assist the oversize / overweight load driver by providing notification of flat tires, objects coming loose from the load and other occurrences that the driver may not be aware of.
- Notify the front escort driver and the oversize / overweight load operator of traffic buildup and other delays to the normal

flow of traffic.

- Notify the oversize / overweight load operator of motorists attempting to pass the load.
- Warn motorists to stop at narrow structures and other roadway restrictions to permit safe passage of the load through the obstruction.
- Slow traffic where necessary to facilitate the permitted load to reduce speed over structures, where speed restriction is required.
- Assume lead escort position when front escort driver stops traffic on two-lane highways.

Authority of Escort Drivers

The purpose of the escort vehicle is to enhance the safety of moving oversize / overweight loads by highway and to reduce delays and inconveniences to the normal flow of traffic. Certified Escort Drivers do have the powers to direct or control traffic, when necessary, while escorting the oversize / overweight permitted vehicle. These situations would most frequently occur on bridges, at construction sites or if additional space is required for the load on a turn. All traffic signals must be obeyed. The escort vehicle does not have the authority to control traffic at an intersection to allow the permitted load to traverse the intersection if the traffic signal is red. The escort driver must not operate a vehicle as an emergency vehicle, i.e., **police, fire, ambulance, etc.**

> Special Permits are issued to the trucking company not to the escort drivers. However, every escort must comply with the permit regulations pertaining to escort operations and this manual.

VII. Escort Vehicles

Size and Identification

Size

Escort vehicles shall have a maximum gross vehicle weight rating of 6000 kgs with a maximum of 2 axles. The interaxle spacing is a minimum of 2.5 meters.

Identification

Each escort vehicle shall be identified by a proper sign as mandated by the Department of Transportation on the front or rear bumper and shall be mounted on the front or rear of the escort vehicle without obstructing warning lights and other safety devices.

Mandatory Equipment for all Escort Vehicles

- The escort vehicle shall be in safe operating condition and capable of displaying signs and other warning devices as prescribed by Section V of this manual.
- All exterior vehicle lights must be turned on during escort operations.
- A properly working two-way radio is required in each escort vehicle so that the driver of the escort vehicle is capable of radio communication with the driver of the oversize load.
- Three emergency triangles and/or flares.
- A fluorescent orange vest.
- A stop paddle and six 45 cm traffic cones and/or portable reflectors (triangular in shape).
- Two 40 by 40 centimeter (16 inch by 16 inch) fluorescent red or orange fluorescent flags, mounted on a staff fastened by two consecutive corners.
- A class 2A-10BC or larger rated fire extinguisher.
- Every front escort shall have a measuring device attached to the vehicle when escorting an overheight load.

VIII. Proper Escort Procedures

The driver of an oversize / overweight load is responsible for the overall movement of the load. Escort drivers should enhance the movement by properly performing their assigned duties. It is important to remember that the driver of an oversize / overweight load and the escort(s) function as a team. Each person must contribute their skills and complete attention to accomplishing the safe movement of the load. Constant alertness is necessary to anticipate and avoid problems.

At all times, comply with all rules and regulations of Provincial and Federal Laws and the conditions of the Special Permit.

Escort drivers have specific tasks to perform during each phase of the oversize / overweight load movement. A summary of the procedures that must be followed before, during, and after the movement is given below.

Before the Trip Begins

When escort services are required, the operator of the oversize / overweight load and the escort driver(s) should arrange for an appropriate safe place to meet off the roadway and discuss various aspects of the move.

Specific items that must be covered include:

- The escort driver(s) must review the permit with the operator of the oversize / overweight load for any special requirements or instructions.
- The escort driver is responsible for ensuring that the permitted load has the proper signing, lighting, and special requirements as designated on the permit, prior to escorting. IF THE PERMITTED LOAD IS NOT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PERMIT, THE PERMIT HOLDER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THE NECESSARY CHANGES
- The routing prescribed on the permit must be carefully reviewed to make sure the directions are understood by everyone involved with the move. It is essential that everyone clearly understand the routes that must be followed during the move.
- The position of each escort vehicle(s), i.e. front escort, etc. is to be determined.
- Mandatory equipment required for the escort vehicle must be checked prior to beginning the move. The sign must be mounted and secured, the vehicle mirrors must be properly adjusted, and the vehicle lights should be turned on.
- An appropriate two-way radio channel must be selected and a check made of each radio to assure clear communication.
- Mobile telephones should be checked to ensure that they are operational and that no blocks have been placed on the phone which would prohibit their use for certain areas that the movement is required to travel through.
- Each escort driver should check to be sure they have their driver's license and escort certification and are in possession of these documents at all times during the trip so they are available for inspection by appropriate authorities. The operator of the oversize / overweight load should also check to ensure the escort drivers are certified. The permit must accompany the load in the cab of the truck.

During the Trip

Once the oversize / overweight movement begins the escort driver(s) and the load operator act as a team to ensure the safety of the traveling public is enhanced by conducting proper escort activities which are listed below.

Traffic Laws

Escort drivers must obey all traffic laws and regulations

Maintain Proper Following Distance

Front and rear escort drivers should maintain a safe distance between their vehicles and the oversize / overweight load. Depending upon highway and traffic conditions, a distance of 300 meters (1,000 feet) is usually appropriate. In urban areas and at narrow bridges, shorter following distances are usually desirable. In rural areas on narrow winding roads, the front escort driver should maneuver his vehicle well ahead of the load in advance of narrow restrictions to warn oncoming traffic of the hazard. Also the rear escort driver should position his vehicle well behind the load in advance of roadway restrictions to warn motorists following the load.

Traffic Signals

When traveling on a route where traffic signals control the movement of traffic, if the escort vehicle passes through the intersection while the load is required to stop for a red light, the escort driver should stop as soon as possible and pull off on the right-hand side of the road and not resume travel until the load approaches at the required following distance.

The escort vehicle has no authority to control traffic at an intersection to allow the permitted load to traverse the intersection if the traffic signal is red. However, if traffic has already been stopped to allow the permitted load to negotiate a turn and the traffic signal turns red, then the escort vehicle will continue to control traffic until the turning movement is complete.

When the escort driver following the oversize / overweight load is required to stop at a traffic light after the load has passed through the intersection, the oversize / overweight load operator should proceed with the move as planned and the rear escort driver should proceed to resume a normal following distance as soon as the driver can proceed through the intersection. The escort drivers must be alert and avoid sudden stops at signals.

Emergency Flashers

When stopped or slowing at a traffic hazard or when traveling at a speed of less than 60 kilometers per hour, the escort driver should use the vehicle turn signal emergency flashers. The flashers should not be used when operations are at or exceed 60 kilometers per hour.

All warning lights for both the escort and permitted load shall be on and operational whenever the permitted vehicle is traveling on the highway system. Warning lights shall not be used for regular vehicular operation.

Two-way Radio Communication

Each escort driver and the oversize / overweight load operator are required to maintain radio communication. The escort operators are responsible for advising the load operator of any condition that may require precautionary action such as reducing speed or pulling off the roadway. Escort drivers should use the radio to inform the oversize / overweight driver of obstructions, pedestrians, and other problems that require advance warning. Appropriate Communication procedures should be followed during all transmissions. Special attention should be given to maintaining radio contact in mountainous areas by reducing following distances if necessary.

Reducing Traffic Buildup

When traffic following the unit exceeds six vehicles or when traffic is detained for more than ten minutes, the escort driver(s) should assist the oversize / overweight load driver to find a suitable location where the load and the escort vehicles can be completely removed from the roadway to allow traffic to pass.

Passing

Unless roadway hazards exist, the driver of the rear escort vehicle should not prevent motorists from passing the oversize / overweight load. The escort driver should inform the load operator that a motorist is attempting to pass so appropriate precautions can be taken. Advance warning is especially important when large trucks pass the load. On narrow roads or when hazards exist the rear escort driver should discourage passing by maneuvering his vehicle near the centerline of the road. When it is necessary for the load to pass other vehicles, the rear escort driver should clearly signal an intention to pass and move into the passing lane well before the load driver initiates the maneuver. The rear escort driver should stay in the passing lane until the load completes the pass.

Inclement Weather and Mechanical Breakdown

During periods of unforeseen inclement weather and when mechanical, physical or other problems occur, the escort drivers should assist the load operator in locating a safe place to remove the load from the roadway until operations can again be initiated.

Narrow Structures

In some cases, including but not limited to narrow structures or obstructions near the road where sight distances are limited, one or more escort drivers should warn approaching and/or oncoming traffic of the presence of the oversize / overweight load. The escort driver(s) should proceed to a point where the sight distance is adequate and use flags, the two-way radio or other method to warn traffic. The escort vehicle should, however, be close enough to the load to be readily identified with the movement.

Bridges

Heavy loads are required to be alone on bridges. This requires traffic control while the heavy load negotiates the structure. It is essential that safe procedures are followed for each structure.

Stopping Traffic

When an oversize / overweight load is routed upon any highway which is too narrow for two way travel at all points, the front escort vehicle or a flagperson shall advance to a point where two-way traffic can be maintained, and warn oncoming traffic to stop at that location. When the load reaches the location where traffic is stopped, the oversize / overweight load shall halt and allow traffic to clear from both directions with assistance being given by the flagperson. The front escort vehicle or flagperson shall then advance to the next point to warn traffic to stop. Traffic shall not be detained for more than ten (10) minutes. When flagging or stopping traffic is required, proper flagging requirements and methods outlined below should be followed.

After the Trip is Completed

When the escort operation is completed, the driver should turn off all exterior lights, amber flashing lights, and must remove or cover the oversize / overweight load sign.

Methods of Flagging Traffic

Duties and Responsibilities

The certified escort driver is also responsible for safeguarding traffic and the oversize / overweight load by warning motorists of danger ahead and guiding them safely through an area always utilizing required equipment. Part of the escort driver certification program includes a signalers course so that escort drivers will be able to control traffic if required.

Flagging Devices: Sign Paddles

The sign paddle should be at least 60 cm (24") wide with 12 cm (5") letters.

Where to Stand

- Flagperson should be located far enough in advance of a problem area so that approaching traffic will have sufficient distance to reduce speed and come to a stop. Depending upon approach, speed, and physical conditions at the site, a distance of 60 to 90 metres (200 to 300 feet) is usually desirable; however, in urban areas where speeds are low and streets are closely spaced, a shorter distance is sometimes desirable.
- Stand facing traffic on the edge of the shoulder of the road just outside of the traffic lane.
- Always stand where you can see and be seen by approaching traffic.

How to Warn Traffic to Stop

- Stand facing traffic but keep out of traffic lane.
- To warn traffic to stop, hold the STOP side of the paddle in a horizontal position in the path of the vehicle. The free arm should be raised with palm of the hand toward approaching traffic.

How to Move Traffic

- When signaling traffic to move ahead, hold the SLOW side of the sign paddle and signal with the free hand, using a sweeping motion in the direction traffic is to move.
- Never use only the sign paddle to signal traffic to move ahead,

Special Requirements

From time to time, the movement of oversize / overweight loads necessitates that special escort procedures be followed. These special requirements are noted on the hauling permit. The driver of the load will call any special conditions to the attention of the escort drivers and advise them of any action necessary to enhance the safe movement of the load.

IX. Don'ts of Escort Driving

- If your operator's license or privilege to drive is revoked or suspended or you do not take the escort driver certification program, or your escort driver's certification has expired, you are not permitted to escort oversize / overweight loads.
- Do not assume police powers or operate your vehicle as an emergency vehicle while escorting ovendimensional loads.
- Never stop in the roadway. If emergency stopping is necessary, pull off the roadway and employ appropriate warning devices such as flags, flares, or reflectors.
- Do not use the emergency flashing turn signals when escort operations are at or exceed 60 kilometers (40 miles) per hour.
- Do not drive the escort vehicle with the sign displayed after the oversize / overweight load movement has been completed.
- Never run traffic lights, stop signs, cross the double solid yellow centerline, run motorists off the road, or commit any other violation of the provincial regulations.

X. Emergencies

Procedures in case of an accident involving the Oversize / Overweight Load or Escort Vehicles:

- Help prevent a second accident by pulling off the road as completely as possible.
- Turn on your flashers.
- Warn approaching traffic of the problem.
- Get help: Dial 911 for police and ambulance. If you are in an area where no cellular phone connection is available, ask the next person who stops to phone for police and ambulance. Use the two-way radio but do not rely on it as a sole means of requesting aid.
- To reduce fire hazard, turn off ignition of wrecked vehicles. Keep smokers away.
- Don't move the injured unless they're in a burning car or other immediate danger. Unnecessary moving often complicates injuries
- Search area for victims thrown from vehicles and hidden in the underbrush
- When trained personnel arrive (rescue squad, police, fire, etc.) give a brief summary of what you've done and ask if you can be of further assistance, but do not interfere with their efforts to care for the injured.

XI. Reporting an Accident

Report to police authorities as quickly as possible any accident:

- in which a person is killed or injured, or
- in which a vehicle or other property is damaged, if damage is in excess of $1,000.

When all involved parties are able, an exchange of information is necessary so that you may make a complete and detailed report of the accident. Get the following information:

- Name of the other driver or drivers
- Address of the other driver or drivers
- The name, address and policy number of the insurance company(ies) of the owner(s) of the vehicle(s) involved (the police will need some insurance information at the scene of the accident. ALWAYS carry insurance information when driving)